



February 14, 2022

Dear Tusculum family,

We thank you for reading The Pioneer Press!

In this edition:

- President's Perspective
- Word of the Week
- Photo of the Week
- Coronavirus update
- President's Day next Monday
- Temporary change in health clinic hours
- Employees signing up with Principal for retirement plan
- Candidates for campus minister
- In-person session for Theologian-In-Residence
- Chapel
- Reminder about comedian coming to campus
- Summer employment opportunity on campus for students
- Area church seeking organist
- Student survey
- Celebrating Diversity Week photos
- Reminders
- Events and activities
- Faculty and staff birthday

President's Perspective

This past week campus buzzed with activity.

In addition to classes, we hosted baseball, softball, women's basketball, men's volleyball and men's lacrosse. Several other teams played away. What a joy to watch our students compete at a high level.

Celebrating Diversity Week was filled with meaningful activities. I was able to attend three of the events and thoroughly enjoyed "In the Presence of Your Ancestors: African American Foodways" at the Doak House hosted by the Black Student Union, "An Evening with Anupe Kaphle" and the production "Of Ebony Embers, Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance." Anupe is a Tusculum graduate and a successful international journalist.

The Super Bowl Sunday watch party in Pioneer Arena was enjoyed by nearly 80 students. This week, the fun continues with comedian Andrew Sleighter Tuesday night. Chapel Monday afternoon and the Theologian-In-Residence lecture Friday morning will be spiritually enriching and enlightening.

Let me encourage you to take full advantage of campus activities because they enrich your college experience.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel
President

Word of the Week

“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.” – Jeremiah 17:7 NIV

Photo of the Week



Students enjoy the Super Bowl watch party in Pioneer Arena! You can see all photos in [this gallery](#).

Coronavirus update

Thirty-three students and zero employees are positive. Seventy-nine percent of employees and 28 percent of students are protected.

All individuals must wear face coverings indoors in our buildings when physical distancing cannot be guaranteed. Faculty and staff members who are alone in their office are not required to wear a face covering, but they should have one with them at all times. We look forward to conditions improving with the coronavirus so we can remove this face covering requirement.

Residential households in the United States can order one set of four free at-home coronavirus tests. The tests will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. To learn more, please visit <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

We urge all Tusculum family members to complete the form at the following links about your status to help us successfully navigate the global coronavirus pandemic.

Employee survey

<https://go.tusculum.edu/forms/employee-covid-19-survey/>

Student survey

<https://go.tusculum.edu/forms/student-covid-19-survey/>

Should you develop coronavirus symptoms, be diagnosed or be identified as a contact, you must immediately inform the appropriate group at Tusculum.

- Students need to email the Office of Student Affairs at studentaffairs@tusculum.edu or call the COVID-19 hotline at 423-636-0500.
- Employees must contact the Human Resources Department at humanresources@tusculum.edu or 423-636-7345 (extension 5345 on campus) as well as their supervisor.

Temporary change in the health clinic's schedule

The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic will be closed Thursday, Feb. 17, and Monday, Feb. 21.

Alice Lawson, an assistant professor of nursing at Tusculum and a nurse practitioner who serves as the medical provider in the clinic has another professional obligation on those two days. The clinic will return to its regular schedule Wednesday, Feb. 23.

The regular schedule is Mondays and Wednesday from 8-11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 1-3:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Patients can self-pay or use their health insurance. Students can apply for payment aid, if necessary.

The clinic is located in Room 008 on the ground floor of the Meen Center.

President's Day is next Monday

Tusculum will observe President's Day Monday, Feb. 21, by not holding classes. All staff members will have the day off as well.

We hope you enjoy the long weekend but take appropriate time to reflect on the presidents who have served our nation.

Set up retirement account now with Principal

For those of you who are currently enrolled and participating in Tusculum University's retirement plan, we remind you of the urgency to set up your account with [Principal](#), our new 403(b) plan carrier. We converted from TIAA to Principal Tuesday, Feb. 1.

We also need you to call the Human Resources Department as soon as possible to schedule time with Edward Jones, our new financial adviser, to transfer your funds from TIAA. This will ensure optimal fee savings and achieve minimal disruption in an employee's retirement plan.

We have arranged for representatives from Principal and our new advisor group, Edward Jones, to be on campus Feb. 15, 16, 17, 23 and 24 from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. each day. They will hold sessions to help you contact TIAA and request balance transfers from TIAA to Principal. Meetings are reserved in 15-minute time slots to assist with balance transfers.

Specific details about setting up your Principal account and transitioning your TIAA account to Principal are available [here](#). The switch to Principal has many benefits, and you can read more about them [here](#).

Please contact the Human Resources Department at humanresources@tusculum.edu or 423-636-7345 (campus extension 5345) if you have questions.

Meet three candidates to serve as Tusculum's campus minister

The search committee for our new campus minister has identified three candidates for the Tusculum family to meet as part of the decision-making process.

Each candidate will deliver a sermon in the chapel in Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center and then take questions from the audience. All faculty, staff and students are invited to participate.

Here are the dates, times and candidates:

- Tuesday, Feb. 15, 3:30-4:30 p.m. – Dr. Chris Shumate, pastor of Oak Street Baptist Church in Elizabethton
- Friday, Feb. 18, 2:30-3:30 p.m. – Rev. Dr. Barry Gaeddert, associate pastor of Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta
- Friday, Feb. 25, 2:30-3:30 p.m. – Minister Jacob Shockey, campus minister and livestream coordinator at Kentucky Christian University in Grayson, Kentucky

CVs and cover letters for all of the finalists are attached for your review.

If you have questions or input on the selection after the sessions, you may direct them to Dr. Kevin Hill, search committee chair and an associate professor of management, at kmhill@tusculum.edu.

We are grateful to the many philanthropic individuals who donated money to support the hiring of a full-time campus minister. The person who is selected will contribute greatly to the caring Christian environment at Tusculum and help Tusculum family members grow in their faith.



The cross in the Scott M. Niswonger Commons

Theologian-In-Residence session will also be available in person Friday

As we move into the second half of this year's Theologian-In-Residence series, we will expand the ways you can access the third session.

We will continue to offer a Zoom option, but you can now also join us in person. Dr. Bennie Crockett, vice president for institutional effectiveness and planning and professor of religion and philosophy at William Carey University will deliver his third lecture Friday, Feb. 18, in Chalmers Conference Center.

Dr. Crockett's topic will be "Older Greek and Hebrew Manuscripts and Scientific Text Analysis: Changes in the English Bible, 1800-present"

If you were unable to attend the first two sessions, you are still welcome to attend Friday.

To register for Theologian-In-Residence, please email Nicole Rader, director of alumni engagement and special events at nrader@tusculum.edu. She will send the link to those registrants who would like to participate via Zoom.

Chapel will feature Richard Miller as speaker

Richard Miller, associate vice president of institutional effectiveness, is scheduled to be the speaker at chapel today. The session will be held from 3:30-4 p.m.

Miller joined the Tusculum family in 2021. He previously served as assistant dean for accreditation, assessment and accountability at Bethany College in West Virginia. He has worked at colleges and in higher education organizations since the 1990s.

He has a bachelor's in biology and ecology from the University of Minnesota, a master's in public policy from the University of Chicago and a certificate in college and university planning from the Society for College and University Planning.

Miller conducts mission work in the Middle East.

You can join today's session

at <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/86025009185?pwd=dG9yMUdQL1MyZWJLRXROUllrZ2tZZz09>.

We will not have chapel next Monday because it is President's Day and the university will not conduct business that day. Kim Kidwell, associate vice president of institutional advancement, is scheduled to speak Feb. 28.



Richard Miller

Join us for a comedian's performance this week on campus

The Office of Student Affairs has lined up topnotch entertainment this week, and all Tusculum family members are invited.

We remind you that Andrew Sleighter, a stand-up comedian, will perform Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre in Annie Hogan Fine Arts Center.

The concert is free. Faculty, staff and students can reserve tickets by emailing Lauren Johnson, coordinator of residence life and programming for Student Affairs, at ljohnson@tusculum.edu. Community members are also invited to attend.

Sleighter recently performed on "The Late Late Show with James Corden." He has also appeared on "Conan" and "Dry Bar Comedy." In addition, he has written and performed sketch comedy for Comedy

Central and wrote for the “Sports Show with Norm Macdonald” on that network. He regularly appears at colleges and comedy clubs across the country.

More information about him is available at <http://www.andrewsleighter.com/>.



Andrew Sleighter

Summer job opportunity on campus for students

Tusculum students who are seeking to earn some money during the summer and build their résumé and leadership skills have a great opportunity on campus.

The university’s Upward Bound program is accepting applications to serve as residential advisers during the annual summer program for high school students. Those who are hired will be required to live in one of the Tusculum residence halls while supervising and mentoring high school students. Residential advisers work as teacher aides, activity leaders and tutors throughout the summer and provide a supportive and encouraging environment for the high school students.

This summer employment opportunity includes one week of training; five weeks working as a residential advisor, mentor, and classroom aid; and one week supervising students on a trip to New Orleans. Work is scheduled to begin May 23 and end July 9.

Upward Bound is an intensive college preparatory program funded by the U.S. Department of Education designed to encourage college entry and completion for area high school students who are income-eligible, based on the federal guidelines, and/or will be the first in their families to obtain a four-year college degree. Tusculum has been proud to support Upward Bound for decades so students will become career-ready professionals.

To learn more and apply for a position, please click [here](#). **The application deadline is Friday, March 11.**



College and high school students who participated in the 2021 Upward Bound summer program

Area church seeking organist

[Erwin Presbyterian Church](#), about 35 minutes from the Tusculum campus, is seeking an organist to play during the Sunday morning service and Wednesday evening choir practice.

This is a part-time paid position and is open to students, faculty and staff. The person would play at the 11 a.m. Sunday service and 6 p.m. Wednesday choir practices.

The church's organ is half pipe and half digital.

Erwin Presbyterian will also accept applications for a pianist, but the preferred choice is an organist.

Anyone who is interested should contact Ellen Sewell, personnel committee chair for Erwin Presbyterian, at 423-220-9169 or smsdd57@gmail.com.

The church is located at 105 N. Elm Ave., Erwin.



Erwin Presbyterian Church

We welcome student feedback on survey

We encourage students to complete [this survey](#) as part of our strategic planning process and value the information you provide

This survey asks how satisfied students are with different parts of their experience at Tusculum. It should take five-10 minutes to finish. We want to know more about their experience so we can ensure we are meeting their needs most effectively.

Anyone with access to students' responses is legally obligated to keep them confidential.

Students can use the following QR code:



Thank you to everyone who supported Celebrating Diversity Week

Celebrating Diversity Week enriched personal lives with its wide range of events that enabled organizers and participants to expand their horizons. We appreciate the extensive work by the College of Civic and Liberal Arts to organize it and thank everyone who participated.

Here are galleries from most of the events.

- ["In the Presence of Your Ancestors: African American Foodways"](#)
- ["An Evening with Anup Kaphle"](#)
- ["National African American Read-In"](#)
- ["Find Your People, Find Yourself"](#)

Reminders

- The Office of Admission is accepting applications from students interested in serving in the President's Society for the 2022-23 academic year. **The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. today.** Interviews will take place Friday, Feb. 18. The application is attached. Completed applications can be emailed to Raegan Goodson, admissions representative and campus visit coordinator, at rgoodson@tusculum.edu or brought to the first floor of Virginia Hall.
- The final day to register for the June 17-29 pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Dr. Hummel is Monday, March 7. You can read about the itinerary by clicking [here](#). Also on that page is a button you can click that will take you to the registration page and provide more information about prices. Please email Dr. Hummel at shummel@tusculum.edu if you have questions. All Tusculum family members, alumni, trustees and community members are invited.
- The Chili Cook-Off for faculty and staff will be held Thursday, March 17, from 11 am.-1 p.m. in the Pioneer Arena lobby. The theme will be "Chili Around the World." Anyone who has

questions can email Nicole Rader, director of alumni engagement and special events, at nrader@tusculum.edu.

- Faculty and staff members who want to join the Tusculum Community Band should email Dr. David Gonzalez, Tusculum's director of bands, at dgonzalez@tusculum.edu.
- Students who are interested in being a Student Support Services or ARCHES participant and faculty and staff members who know of a student who would qualify for these programs can email sss@tusculum.edu or ARCHES@tusculum.edu.
- The Center for Academic Success and Tutoring is conveniently located in Room 002 on the ground floor of the Meen Center. Services are free and are available in person or online. Drop-in hours are from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 7-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday evenings. To view the tutoring schedule, please click [here](#). Students who are interested in serving as tutors can contact the center.
- The food pantry, located across from the Center for Academic Success and Tutoring in the Meen Center, is open to all students. Students who have specific needs that might not be available in the pantry should email the Center for Civic Advancement at cca@tusculum.edu.

Events and activities

All Tusculum family members

Monday, Feb. 14, 3:30 p.m., Zoom

(<https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/86025009185?pwd=dG9yMUdQL1MyZWJLRXROUllrZ2tZZz09>); chapel

Monday, Feb. 14, and Tuesday, Feb. 15, 5:30 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; yoga

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., Marilyn duBrisk Theatre; comedian Andrew Sleighter

Thursday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m., Meen Center Room 300; Breaking Bread

Friday, Feb. 18, 8:30 a.m., meet outside the Meen Center near Pioneer Park; Great Backyard Bird Count

Friday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m., Zoom and Chalmers Conference Center; Theologian-In-Residence

Faculty and staff

Wednesday, Feb. 16, noon, Zoom; The Pioneer Pathway Task Force

Community

Monday, Feb. 14, 5:30 p.m., Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center; Great Literature Alive, Well, & Playing in Greeneville, Tennessee, class

Athletics



Tusculum's softball team opened its home schedule for the 2022 season with a pair of wins Friday, Feb. 11, against Concord University. The team will defend its South Atlantic Conference postseason tournament title this year. In this photo, Chloe Freischmidt, a catcher, swings at a pitch as her teammates watch.

Monday, Feb. 14, and Tuesday, Feb. 15, all day, St. Augustine, Florida; men's and women's golf teams at Spring Kickoff Intercollegiate

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1 p.m., Nichols Tennis Center; men's and women's tennis teams vs. Mars Hill University

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Red Edmonds Field; softball team vs. North Greenville University

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 5:30 p.m., Lincoln Memorial University; women's basketball team vs. Lincoln Memorial University

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m., North Greenville University; women's lacrosse team vs. North Greenville University

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m., Pioneer Field; men's lacrosse team vs. Lees-McRae College

Thursday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m., Lincoln Memorial University; men's basketball team vs. Lincoln Memorial University

Friday, Feb. 18, 9 a.m., Columbia, South Carolina; men's and women's indoor track and field teams at USC Indoor Open

Friday, Feb. 18; Saturday, Feb. 19, and Sunday, Feb. 20, all day, Jonesboro, Arkansas; women's bowling team at Mid-Winter Invitational

Friday, Feb. 18, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Belmont Abbey College; men's tennis team vs. Belmont Abbey College

Friday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m., Belmont Abbey College; women's tennis team vs. Belmont Abbey College

Friday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's volleyball team vs. Fort Valley State University

Saturday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m. and noon, new beach volleyball courts; beach volleyball team vs. Truett McConnell University

Saturday, Feb. 19, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., Pioneer Park; baseball team vs. Molloy College

Saturday, Feb. 19, 1 p.m., Pioneer Field; women's lacrosse team vs. Chowan University

Saturday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m., Emmanuel College; men's lacrosse team vs. Emmanuel College

Saturday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m., Pioneer Arena; women's basketball team vs. Coker University

Saturday, Feb. 19, 3 p.m., Florence, South Carolina; softball team vs. Mercy College

Saturday, Feb. 19, 4 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's basketball team vs. Coker University

Saturday, Feb. 19, 5 p.m., Florence, South Carolina; softball team vs. Francis Marion University

Sunday, Feb. 19, noon, Pioneer Park; baseball team vs. Molloy College

Sunday, Feb. 19, noon, Florence, South Carolina; softball team vs. Francis Marion University

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m., Florence, South Carolina; softball team vs. Bloomsburg University



The Tusculum men's lacrosse team won big Tuesday, Feb. 8, topping Shorter University 18-2 at PioneerField. In this photo, Tristan Kirkham, a junior midfielder, carries the ball, with Kale Lawrence, a senior attacker, on the left.

Athletic contests can change. Be sure to check the schedule on the [athletics website](#) for revisions.

Faculty and staff birthday

- Thursday, Feb. 17 – Jim Wozniak

Go Pioneers!